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- 5 DETECTION OF FECAL MATERIAL
 - 5.1 EDELMAN'S TEST (Reference 12, pp. 4-7, Appendix A)
 - 5.1.1 Safety Considerations
 - 5.1.1.1 Mercuric chloride Caution! Very toxic if inhaled or swallowed, or if in contact with skin! Poisonous! Dangerous! May be fatal!
 - 5.1.1.2 Zinc chloride Caution! Corrosive!
 - 5.1.1.3 Amyl alcohol (isopentyl alcohol) Caution! Harmful if swallowed or inhaled! Irritant! Combustible!
 - 5.1.2 Equipment
 - 5.1.2.1 Scissors
 - 5.1.2.2 Tweezers
 - 5.1.2.3 Centrifuge
 - 5.1.2.4 Long wavelength ultraviolet light source
 - 5.1.2.5 Vortex
 - 5.1.3 Materials
 - 5.1.3.1 Disposable pipettes
 - 5.1.3.2 Test tubes and/or microcentrifuge tubes
 - 5.1.4 Reagents
 - 5.1.4.1 10% Saturated mercuric chloride solution (1 g in 10 ml of 95% ethanol)
 - 5.1.4.2 10% Saturated zinc chloride solution (1 g in 10 ml of 95% ethanol)
 - 5.1.4.3 Amyl alcohol (isopentyl alcohol)
 - 5.1.4.4 Distilled water
 - 5.1.4.5 Positive control (known feces)
 - 5.1.5 Storage
 - 5.1.5.1 The 10% saturated solutions of mercuric chloride and zinc chloride are stable at room temperature.

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5.1.6 Labeling

- 5.1.6.1 Label each bottle with the contents and lot number (date of preparation followed by the initials of person preparing the solution).

 Example: 10% saturated zinc chloride solution Lot Number 100899JD was prepared by Jane Doe on October 8, 1999.
- 5.1.6.2 There is no expiration date (see 5.1.7 Minimum Standards and Controls).

5.1.7 Minimum Standards and Controls

5.1.7.1 A positive reagent control (known fecal stain), and a negative control (distilled water) must be tested and results documented in the case file. As a general rule a substrate control will not be tested nor is not necessary to test submitted control swabs.

5.1.8 Edelman's Test Procedure

- 5.1.8.1 To prepare an extract of the stain, place an approximate ½ cm² piece of suspected fecal stain and controls in appropriately labeled test tubes or microcentrifuge tubes, add a minimum of 3 drops of distilled water to each tube (use only the amount of distilled water necessary to saturate the stain) and leave at room temperature for at least 15 minutes.
- 5.1.8.2 Remove the material and add a minimum of 3 drops of 10% saturated zinc chloride solution to the extract.
- 5.1.8.3 Add 5 drops of amyl alcohol (isopentyl alcohol) to the extract and vortex.
- 5.1.8.4 Centrifuge for 5 minutes. Pipet the supernatant layer into an appropriately labeled test tube.
- 5.1.8.5 Add 3 drops of 10% saturated mercuric chloride solution.
- 5.1.8.6 Observe color changes in both white and ultraviolet light. Document results. If urobilin is present the solution may become rose-pink, but will show a crab apple green fluorescence under long wave ultraviolet light.
- 5.1.8.7 All controls must give the expected results before a conclusion can be reached on an unknown sample. When all controls work properly and a positive reaction is observed for the unknown sample, presence of feces is indicated.

5.1.8.8 Interpretation

5.1.8.8.1	Positive Reaction =	Crab apple green fluorescence under long wave ultraviolet light
5.1.8.8.2	Negative Reaction =	No green fluorescence under long wave ultraviolet light
5.1.8.8.3	Inconclusive Reaction =	No green fluorescence of the positive control under long wave ultraviolet light

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5.1.8.9 Reporting Results

- 5.1.8.9.1 Report positive test results as "Fecal material was indicated..."
- Report negative test results as "No fecal material was indicated" 5.1.8.9.2
- Report inconclusive test results as "The test for fecal material was 5.1.8.9.3 inconclusive..."

♦END